

# Energy security in Wider Black Sea Area

## Project Description

This project aims to investigate, evaluate and compare the existing energy security strategies and equivalent documents at the level of the countries situated in the Wider Black Sea Area. The problem of energy security is in the forefront of the research and concerns of the states in the region and the approaches are debated inside the European Union and NATO. Two schools of addressing energy security are the basic ones, with nuances: one is referring to the alternative sources and alternative routes, of delivering the supplies of oil and gas, meaning the network of pipelines in the region, alternative projects and support for those projects. In this field the dynamic is high and recent developments in Turkey, in the relations with Azerbaijan and in the pressures made towards the EU are making the situation very uncertain in the long run. On the other hand, the second approach is considering the interdependence of the suppliers and consumers in both the upstream – with participations in the production of the consumers – and in the downstream with equal participations in the distribution of the suppliers.

In order to avoid this conflicting approach, the current study focuses on the existing Black Sea Region countries strategies, but the approach is in three steps, meaning basically considering challenges to the State Existence, Domestic Safety and Economic Welfare. Through this angle of approach, we want to convert the existing strategies – result of the perception of those states of the threats to their energy security – in this paradigm who sees the Primary Energy Security in Ensuring military and security functionality, the Secondary Security in supporting the Critical domestic services and the third one in maintaining the economic vitality.

Our study wants to focus also on the sources and rational of the formulation of those policies, if they exist, than on the planning and feasibility of those strategies, on the correctness of the result to the perceived and designed problem for each country. These individual studies will allow a comprehensive comparative study of those strategies.

The final result will evaluate the capacity of facing four levels of general threats and challenges, according to the existing strategies: short run catastrophic effects, disproportionate price effects, consistently high costs and

reduced investment. The result will be a map of the capacity of those states to face and react to challenges linked to the energy security.

Focusing on general defined approaches to energy security is a matter of evaluating the sustainability of the states from the region but we want to see the level of preparedness, realism in the strategies and capacity to react effectively to those problems. Since the predictions of the year 2010 are underlining a continuous Russian revival as a global power and a new impetus for the regional leadership with the area of sphere of interests developed in the post-Soviet space, this perspective requires this type of assessment for the perspective of seeing at what respect could the EU help maintaining the pro-Western reforms and developments of those countries and at what costs. Considering the perspectives of the post- Lisbon treaty EU aspiration as a regional leader, this perspective is equally important and that is why we think that the final results should be presented in Berlin, Brussels and Washington.

**Goal/Objectives:**

We are following to achieve the objectives:

1. Assessment of the existing energy security strategies of the Wider Black Sea Region. Realism, feasibility, capacity of adapting those plans to the evolution of the situation in the region.
2. Assessment of the level of fulfilling the three basic requirements of the security in a given crisis situation, for each country.
3. Assessment of the existing planning, preparedness and mitigation capacity for the situation of the four type of crisis - short run catastrophic effects, disproportionate price effects, consistently high costs and reduced investment.

All those objectives will be achieved through contacts, visits and consideration of the existing documents, through interviews with responsible for the matter in the Wider Black Sea Region countries.

4. Elaboration, editing and printing of the study, in a book.
5. Launching the book in the respective countries, in debates with the respective concerned NGO's academics and officials.
6. Presentation of the study in Berlin, Brussels and Washington.

**Beneficiaries**

The beneficiaries of this project will include institutions, policy makers, academics, individuals and social groups affected by this issue's existence as well as think tanks interested in researches of this kind. The above mentioned beneficiaries represent both the authorities and the communities in the Wider Black Sea Region states. Aiming to all of these groups in several countries will offer a new perspective on the problems of energy security with a direct influence in the future policies of those countries. We also would like to reveal the problems that each country should solve, in an order of priorities, for covering the side effects and problems of such a problem and associated crisis that could occur.

### Activities

1. Obtaining the primary sources and interviewing decision makers
2. Preparing the first draft of the research
3. Meeting with the experts for reviewing the Research Drafts, in Bucharest
4. Finalizing the Policy Paper
5. Printing the Policy Paper
6. Launching the Policy Paper in the Wider Black Sea Region, with debates on the findings
7. Presenting the results in the EU-US main interested countries.

The final paper will be a Policy Paper with the basic assessment of the situation of the mechanisms of energy security strategies, their realism and effectiveness, the preparedness and planning for possible crisis in the field and the capacity of the countries to react and to act in solidarity in order to overcome such problems. The final document will be printed in English and launched in the respective countries in public presentations and debates.

### Timeframe of Activities

- **March 1st- March 7th – employment and head quarters set-up;**
- **March 8th – March 14 - individual planning;**
- **March 15th – 31st – research and contact with local partners;**
- **April 1st – collaborating with external partners;**
- **May 1st – June 30th – planning the interviews and external visits (MAE, embassies );**

- **June 30th – September 15th – preparing the conference and updating the data base**
- **September 15th – October 15th – finalizing the updates of the data base, overview of local materials, organizing and holding the conference;**
- **October 15th – December 20th – editing, and printing of the final work;**
- **January 1st – Februarie 28th – release and report editing.**

## **Partnerships**

**Ukraine: Institute for Euro Atlantic Cooperation – partner and think thank**

**Republic of Moldova: The Institute for Public Policies – partner and think thank**

**Other partners in Turkey, Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria**

## **Partners on the field**

### Ukraine

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Program Director

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Azerbaijan

Elkhan Mehtiev

Bulgaria

Marin Lessenski  
EuPI/European Policies Initiative  
OSI-Sofia

**All the partners will be part of this project in terms of research, as well as the organising association. Each of the partners will have an expert investigating the issues and offering administrative and logistic assistance in order to fulfil the objective of the project in each country by arranging the interviews and offering the documents and studies related to the energy security strategies in the respective countries.**

**Community Involvement**

**The results of the study will be launched in the media of the respective countries and will be discussed with interested part at the launching moment, in an open debate. The analysis will contain as primary sources interviews with government officials and policy makers in the area of energy security in each of the countries targeted by the project, but we are also going to look into**

the perception of the matter through existing expert and journalist opinions and opinion polls.

### **Local Resource Mobilization**

The Center for Conflict Prevention and Early Warning achieved experience in implementing several projects as vast as this one and this is why we can state that it has the necessary background to implement a new project of this kind. The center has the space and the necessary IT support in order to develop the project. Our organization also cooperates frequently with volunteers, offering an important human resource for the project implementation. The dissemination of the project results is already assured through the organizations partners' network. The volunteers will be used in local teams for realizing the assessment and partner organizations in Ukraine and Republic of Moldova and the other involved countries will cover their respective administrative costs through local fund raising.

### **Expected Results**

#### **Outputs**

1. Policy Paper with the basic assessment of the situation of the mechanisms in the countries of the Wider Black Sea Region and recommendations for the needed changes and updates in terms of energy security strategies.
2. Public debates involving the Policy Paper resulted from this project
3. Dissemination of the analysis through decision making actors.

#### **Outcomes**

The outcome of this project will represent a policy paper that in the long run could enhance the situation of the energy security strategies crisis management in the region for all the Wider Black Sea Region countries. The comparative approach could lead to good practices and lessons learnt that could be used by all the countries in the region. The project itself and the ways of cooperating will represent a positive model for joint efforts in identifying possible solutions for a common problem, allowing the evaluation to benefit

of the added value due to the common-oriented approach of the researchers involved in this project.

## **Impact**

At the end of the day, we expect the project to draw attention in order to promote its conclusion and to disseminate the results to as many policy makers, government representatives, mass-media, individual and formal groups interested in the area of crisis management. Further particular studies on other issues related could draw common reactions of the energy security strategy system in the region and improve or change the perceptions of the authorities in each countries in relation to these particular problems and gave ideas to avoid the side effects of the security dilemma applied in this particular cases.

The challenge will be the impact on long term. We predict that the Policy Paper will find its way in presenting ideas that could be adopted and applied by the policy makers in the respective countries, improving the way energy security and solidarity in energy supplies are perceived and implemented in the decision making areas of those countries from the Wider Black Sea Region.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

### **Monitoring**

Each of the experts will have the duty of sending coherent reports to the project coordinator in order to know the current stage of the project. The experts will have obligation of announcing the organizing association / project manager of any changes meant to disturb the well going of the project. Stage reports will be delivered to the granting organization by the director of project.

### **Evaluation**

As far as evaluation is concerned, this shall be done in three points:

1. Evaluation of the work regarding the values of the interviews for creating the Policy Paper
2. Evaluation of the Policy Paper from the expert's point of view

3. Evaluation of the echo created by the launching of the Policy Paper (the number of debates regarding it, the way it was implemented by the policy makers, etc.)

## **Sustainability**

Energy security is a current concern in the region and several projects are developed. The current project could give an impetus and a reference paper for further researches by the same researchers or by different ones in the respective countries. This cooperation will improve the network capabilities of the group and the results presented could provide new interest and funding from the EU and US founding institutions in order to update and improve the existing strategies and to adapt them to the day by day changes. It is also important in order to have predictable and sustainable partners in the region. As we have mentioned, the possibility of EU and the US to take some part of the burden in order to support the independence of the Wider Black Sea Region countries worse equipped for the energy crisis is a natural project that could follow the existing result.